

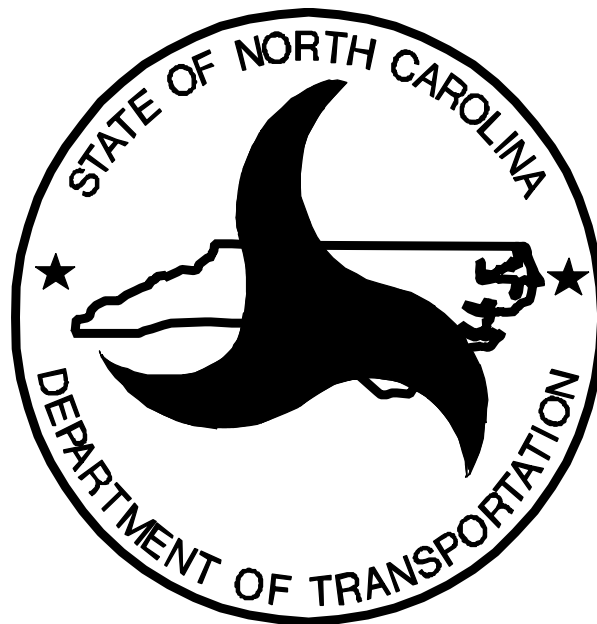
Archaeological Data Recovery at the Lockville Historic Complex

Site 31CH690

**Chatham and Lee Counties, North Carolina
TIP No. R-2500
State Project No. 6.409006T**

by

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Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is making improvements to U.S. Highway 1 in Lee, Chatham, and Wake Counties, North Carolina (TIP No. R-2500). Part of the project includes the replacement and construction of north and southbound bridges over the Deep River at the border of Lee and Chatham Counties. These bridges cross through a National Register of Historic Places property known as the Lockville Dam, Canal and Powerhouse Site (State Archaeological Site Number 31CH690).

Environmental planning for the proposed U.S. Highway 1 improvements was conducted by NCDOT in 1991. At that time, an archaeological survey of the project Area of Potential Effect (APE) was conducted by NCDOT archaeologists. Archaeological and architectural features associated with the Lockville Dam, Canal and Powerhouse Site and other nearby historic resources were identified (Robinson 1991). These resources were designated as part of a “Lockville Historic Complex,” and included archaeological and architectural features other than those of the Dam, Canal and Powerhouse site. The complex was considered potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

According to information provided by planning engineers in 1991, it did not appear that important archaeological remains associated with the National Register property were included in the area that was to be disturbed by bridge construction. However, at the onset of construction in 1996, NCDOT construction managers determined that, due to a proposed haul road and associated drainage facilities, the impact area was larger than previously anticipated. The area of impact included substantial archaeological remains. After careful evaluation of project plans, it was determined that there would be unanticipated destruction and disturbances to several archaeological features. It was not possible to redesign the project at this late date to avoid impacting the archaeological features.

In order to mitigate the disturbances to the archaeological site, an archaeological data recovery investigation was conducted within the portion of NCDOT right of way which contained significant archaeological features or remains. The archaeological investigation was undertaken between April and July, 1996. The study resulted in the documentation of several features associated with the historic Lockville community, a small village that developed in association with the lock and dam operation between the 1850s and 1870s. Archaeological features documented during the investigation included a terraced hillside with stone retaining walls, the remains of a miller’s house, a subterranean cellar and well, and the foundations of a store structure which faced onto the canal. Also included in the impact area were foundations of Ramsey’s Mill and the associated spill pond. The mill had its origins in the late eighteenth century and continued to operate until the first decade of the twentieth century when it was destroyed by flooding.

This report provides a summary of the archaeological documentation effort and the data recovered during the investigation of the Lockville Dam, Canal and Powerhouse Site (State Site Number 31CH690). Also included are recommendations relating to the significance of the site and consideration of the mitigation efforts.